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Primary Healthcare Center Nears Completion In Muthanna Province

By John Connor
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Work is nearly finished on a new primary healthcare center at Al Warka in Muthanna Province.

The facility, built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at a cost of about \$1.1 million, will provide critical medical services to the population of Al Warka and the surrounding area, approximately 35,000 people. Funding for the project was provided under the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund.

"It's a fantastic project," said Navy Cmdr. Mike Lang, officer in charge of the Adder Area of USACE's Gulf Region South District, which provides reconstruction services for the nine southern provinces of Iraq.

"This is the best constructed and best looking facility of all the PHCs Adder has in the two provinces of Dhi Qar and Muthanna," he said.

Major features include a labor and delivery department, newborn nursery, staff living quarters, doctor and dental offices, examination rooms, training classrooms, X-Ray lab, ultrasound room, pharmacy, cafeteria, and parking area.

The Al Warka facility is a Type C PHC, the largest of the three types of primary healthcare facilities constructed by the Corps of Engineers in Iraq.

Cecil Whitehouse, the Corps of Engineers construction representative on the job, said the facility took about 18 months to construct and called it the highest qual-



Primary Healthcare Center at Al Warka in Muthanna Province Nears Completion (Photo by Cecil Whitehouse, USACE)

ity work he has seen during his current tour in Iraq. He said the contractor was very responsive to suggestions.

Whitehouse said the project is 98% complete. He said the facility is expected to be operational in the first half of February.

The PHC is one of many such facilities now being completed or nearing completion across the GRS area. It is expected to employ about 50 persons, Whitehouse said.

The Adder Area Office currently has nine PHCs in various stages of completion spread over Dhi Qar and Muthanna Provinces, said Lang.

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